

Care and Maintenance of Safety Products

Safety at Sea Seminar

Fire extinguishers

- Inspect gauge for full pressure
 - Generally around 150 psi, or in the “OK” sector
- Look in nozzle for signs of agent
 - Any powder may indicate partial discharge
- Invert extinguisher several times to unpack agent
- Label locations if they are invisible when in place
- Never partially discharge extinguisher without refilling

Inflatable Life Jackets

Each trip or use

- Remove and inspect that CO2 cartridge is unused by inspecting tip
- Insure that CO2 cartridge is firmly seated in inflator
- Verify whether device is automatic or manual inflation
 - Bobbin or water sensing element in place

Inflatable Life Jackets

Six Month Checkup

- Replace water-activated bobbin if Halkey Roberts type
- Check expiration date on other brands of inflator water sensors
- Remove CO2 cylinder, inspect
- Orally inflate life jacket as hard as possible; leave for a few hours. If bladder is soft, replace.
- Install new bobbin, re-install CO2 cylinder, repack.
- Inspect strobe or light for correct operation

Inflatable Life Jackets

- Notes
 - Oral inflation pressure is about 0.6 psi
 - Bladders are strong enough to withstand an oral inflation, plus CO₂, plus an additional 20% (11 psi) for at least 5 min
 - Burst strength for 38g bladders is between 18 and 21 psi
 - One gram of CO₂ provides approximately 1 lb. of buoyancy

Lifesling

- Insure line is faked in correct order with Lifesling last in bag
- Check light for operation
- Insure line is made fast to strong point on boat
- Inspect lifting tackle; should be two-blocked and line faked in storage bag

Man Overboard Module

- Insure MOM has been inspected within two years
- Inspect mounting brackets for security
- Inspect launching pin for operation

Marking of gear

- Floating items should have vessel name
 - Life raft
 - Life jackets
 - COB gear
 - EPIRB
 - Cushions

EPRIBs

- Insure that EPIRB is registered with current vessel and owner information. See www.sarsat.noaa.gov
- Insure that battery is within replacement date guidelines
- Insure that hydro release is within replacement guidelines
- Use self-test feature to check for correct operation
 - 406 MHz units can be tested at any time
 - 121.5MHz units: test for <3 seconds in first 5 min of hr. Tune radio to 97.5MHz.

Emergency Navigation Lts

- Storage location
- How attached
- How powered

Life Rafts

- Have life raft inspected annually by authorized service station
- Store in dry location when not needed
- Don't get valise life rafts wet unless you're using it
- Make sure the tether is made fast to the boat
- Practice getting life raft on deck if stored below
- Establish an Abandon Ship plan and review with crew

Bilge Pumps

- Install a strainer on suction end of hose
- Insure that pump body is accessible for clearing
- Know what tool(s) are required for service
- Keep hoses as short as possible, and airtight on suction side
- If electric, install alarm sensor above normal pump switch to alert of flooding
- Insure that pump handles are tied to boat

Flares and Signals

- Replace flares 42 months from date of manufacture
- Keep in waterproof container
- Understand how to ignite flare; demonstrate technique to crew
- Keep expired SOLAS flares for up to 10 years as extras

Anchor and Rode

- “Mouse” shackles to prevent pins from unscrewing
 - Monel wire or nylon wire ties
- Prepare a fairlead for chafe reduction on bow and stern
 - Snatch block? Removable bow fairlead?
- Insure that disassembled anchors and be assembled manually or with proper tools
- Fake line into containers or line bags; don’t coil
- Store anchors and rodes securely in case of capsize
- Make bitter end fast to vessel

Personal Safety Gear

- Replace batteries in strobes, flashlights, headlights every six months; use lithium or alkaline batteries
- Inspect zipper sliders for corrosion; replace with plastic versions if possible
- Inspect knives for corrosion and sharpness
- Add fanny pack or pouch on PFD to store small items
 - Strobe
 - Knife
 - Headlight
 - Light sticks

Underway

- Rigging pins in place and undistorted
- Standing wires not fractured
- Gooseneck and vang attachments tight
- Running rigging not unduly chafed
- Shackles seized when appropriate
- Avoid rings in clevis pins
- Hourly check of wear points

Underway, cont.

- Bilge level check and log book entry
- Record battery level (Ah) hourly Stern gland
- Engine checks
 - Oil level
 - Coolant level
 - Fuel filter water and sediment